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EXHIBITIONS.—Portrait of Mr. McDouall Stuart, the Australian Explorer, 2 boat-models found in the centre of Australia by that discoverer; Medallion Portrait of the late Mr. W. J. Wills, and Pistol belonging to the same gentleman; specimens of Australian woods; and several Planispheres and Maps, by the Chevalier Ignazio Villa, were exhibited.

The PRESIDENT stated that during the recess a large map of Australia had been prepared; which, while enabling the names of the principal rivers and towns to be seen from all parts of the room, would in some sort be worthy of the remarkable explorations which were taking place throughout that immense portion of our possessions. He congratulated the Society upon the session being opened with papers on that vast continent. It was a continent to which, as a geographer, he had always attached the greatest interest. He admired the Australian colonist for his zeal and vigour, and particularly for his loyalty and attachment to the old country. He made this observation because, somehow or other, it had recently become the fashion to talk of "secession." It was only among a few people, it was true, still the question had been mooted; but he knew perfectly well, from constant communication with friends in Australia, that there was not in any part of the British dominions a people more attached to the Crown and to their mother country than the Australians. He hoped, indeed, that the day was far distant when these glorious colonies should be separated from us. The papers to be read in the course of the evening would include a communication from Sir Henry Barkly; and as there were many distinguished Australian gentlemen in the room—two or more of them who are or have been Governors of these great colonies—he hoped to hear an ample discussion of the subject.

The Papers read were—

1. *The Lower Course of the Burdekin River in Queensland.* By G. ELPHINSTONE DALRYMPLE, Commissioner of Crown Lands in the Kennedy District.

THE author has now completed his examination of the Lower Burdekin River, extending from Leichhardt's Station in s. lat.  $20^{\circ} 37'$ , e. long.  $147^{\circ}$ , to its mouth in Upstart Bay, s. lat.  $19^{\circ} 42'$ , e. long.  $147^{\circ} 30'$ , including a course of 110 miles. The river is undivided until 15 miles from the sea, when a large branch leaves it on the northern bank, and enters Upstart Bay on the east side of Bowling Green delta; a second similar branch is given off a few miles lower down. The Burdekin is not a navigable river, for even boats cannot ascend it more than 9 miles from the sea. The general character of its bed consists in large reaches of water, alternating with sweeps of red sand, and connected by a shallow stream of 50 feet in width. The whole of the lower Burdekin runs through a richly grassed open forest of the finest pastoral description.

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